LUXURY TRAVEL
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Wednesday, June 8, 2011
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Expats get in on action

Website lists bars to watch Canucks games in Barbados, Taipei, Maui, London and Sydney, among other places It also helps fans listen to or watch games live online

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canucks fans sit at a bar near the TD Garden in Boston before the start of Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final on Monday.

Cam MacMurchy believes all Canucks fans should be able to experience the magic and suspense of watching their team's fight for the Stanley Cup live, no matter where in the world they reside.

That's why the 32-year-old Victoria native, who's lived in China for seven years, created nuckyeah.com, a website that connects expats with bars showing playoff games in their respective cities.

The idea came to him when his friend, an avid Canucks fan, opened a bar in Beijing and started showing the games.

Upwards of 40 people — all clad in Canucks jerseys — have been showing up to watch games at 8 a.m.

"I realized there's a huge need for Canucks fans to watch games," MacMurchy said.

"So I decided to place all this information on one site. It's like a central repository of information for Canucks fans overseas."

He said the feedback has been incredible.

"We are getting thousands of visits from all corners of the world. People are asking where to watch games in places like Colombia, Rwanda and Hungary," he said.

MacMurchy has since found two bars showing games in Hong Kong.

"I wandered up to one of them on my lunch break during Game 7 against Chicago, and when Burrows scored in overtime the bar erupted.

"I was hugging people I didn't even know. Knowing that this was happening in Hong Kong was pretty special."

More on Canucks {pages 32 & 33}

Libya

Defiance amid airstrikes

NATO unleashes heaviest day of attacks in Tripoli, raising pressure on Libyan regime Gadhafi not backing down {page 6}

Pile it on

Fiesta layered salad makes good use of rice
{page 28}

Nintendo unveils next-gen Wii

Controller resembles tablet device {page 14}

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Missing Women Inquiry gets going

Missing Women Inquiry commissioner Wally Oppal will hear directly from the community organizations that were denied funding by the government.

Oppal announced a pre-hearing conference will be held June 13 with all participants in the inquiry.

Groups that were rejected for public funds will get 15 minutes each to tell Oppal why they need to be represented by lawyers at the hearings and how their interests are impacted by the government's decision.

Last month, the government announced it would be providing funding only for the families of Robert Pickton's victims, leaving organizations such as the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and WISH without monetary aid to be represented at the upcoming inquiry. MATT KIELTYKA

Game 3 crowds smaller, police say

Game 3 crowds were a bit more subdued than they were in games 1 and 2 of the Stanley Cup final, police said yesterday.

Around 35,000 people — down from 70,000 on the weekend — were downtown watching the game.

Police only made one arrest for public intoxication and made 151 liquor pour-outs, said Const. Lindsey Houghton.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ NDP Leader Adrian Dix launches his Vote Yes campaign against the HST from the home of a Burnaby family yesterday.

NDP leader makes family home his political pulpit

- Opposition officially launches Vote Yes campaign against sale tax
- If elected premier, Adrian Dix would prefer PST/GST scheme

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

It wasn't your average press conference.

NDP Leader Adrian Dix replaced a podium with a kitchen counter and clapping supporters with the ambivalent jabber of toddlers yesterday as he launched his Vote Yes campaign against the Harmonized Sales Tax in a modest, bustling family home in Burnaby.

Lobbying in this setting may not reach a mass audience like the pro-HST advertisements on TV, but it's where Dix feels the battle hinges as British Columbians prepare to decide the controversial tax's fate in the upcoming referendum later this month.

"We're trying to do the opposite of what the government is doing," said Dix. "We got this referendum because we went around to kitchens, because we went door to door. So many people did. This is the people's referendum."

Dix said his three main points of discussion during the campaign are that the Liberals can't be trusted after the way they forced the tax on the province; that even with the tax dropping to 10 per cent as promised, it represents a $1.3-billion shift onto consumers and families; and that other public policies and services have fallen by the wayside since the HST was introduced.

Asked what would happen to businesses and industries that benefit from the HST, Dix said he's open to working on solutions if the tax were scrapped, but stressed his party feels more people are hurt by it.

"Overall, this is a disaster for the economy of B.C.," Dix said.

HST-referendum ballots will be mailed out by June 13 and must be returned by July 22, with results expected by the end of August.

1 news

String of accidents puts the safety of 'bounce houses' in the spotlight. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Vancouver's notorious Green Men wade into hostile territory in Boston. Video at metronews.ca

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News in brief

New family programs

NURSE PARTNERSHIPS. The province will assist vulnerable first-time parents with a $23-million initiative that includes nurse-family partnerships that pair pregnant women with nurses who will provide counselling and direct families to health and social services.

DAVID PROCTOR

Driver dies in fiery crash

ROAD ACCIDENT. A truck driver has died on the Coquihalla Highway near Merritt. RCMP say the man was trapped in his burning rig after slamming into a support post of an overpass yesterday. The man's name won't be released until his family is notified. Meanwhile, a tractor-trailer slammed into the Highway 1 underpass at Sumas Way in Abbotsford yesterday, causing traffic disruptions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear attacks man, dog

PROTECTING CUB. A man needed more than 50 stitches after he was attacked by a black bear near Tappen, in the southern Interior. Conservation officer Barb Leslie says the bear turned on the man after his dog chased her cub up a tree. While the man was badly clawed on his chest and neck, the dog was not seriously hurt. Conservation officers are urging people to keep dogs on leashes in rural areas and make enough noise to warn bears away.

CHNL

Going for a home run

Former homeless drug addict will run half-marathon
Raising money for Union Gospel Mission to help others like him

DAVID PROCTOR
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Years of alcoholism and drug addiction once had Brendan McLellan homeless, depressed and suicidal. Today, however, he wants to give back to the Union Gospel Mission, which he says saved his life, by raising money in the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon.

"This is a really fantastic opportunity for me to be able to raise funds and help the UGM for such a vital cause," he said.

McLellan had a happy childhood and a college education. He was also a lifelong athlete. "I was always playing sports. It was one big party. My friends were drinking.... I was surrounded by alcohol."

Years later, his mother's diagnosis and eventual death from cancer hit him hard. A dependence on crack cocaine led him to lose his job, home and family.

"I was at that point where I knew I was either going to kill myself or try recovery one last time," he says.

Thirteen months ago, he was accepted to the Union Gospel Mission recovery program. Now he's an outreach worker for UGM. He will run the half-marathon on June 26 to raise money for its women's and family programs.

"Nobody ever decided when they were a child that 'I want to grow up to be a drug addict,'" McLellan said. "People need to help out here. You can't give up on people."

DAVID PROCTOR/METRO

▶ Nobody sets out in life to become a drug addict, says Brendan McLellan, pictured in the alley behind the Union Gospel Mission in the Downtown Eastside.

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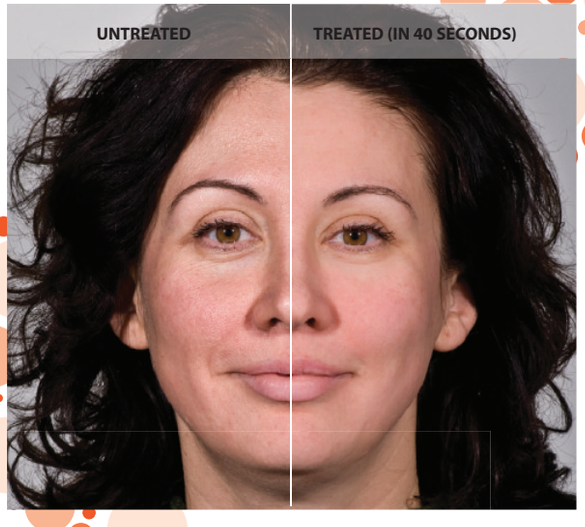

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‘We will not kneel,’ shouts Gadhafi

NATO unleashes most punishing airstrikes yet Tripoli HQ a target

Moammar Gadhafi stood defiant yesterday in the face of the heaviest and most punishing NATO airstrikes yet.

“We will not kneel!” he shouted on Libyan state television as thunderous daylight attacks sent plumes of smoke billowing above his central Tripoli compound.

The Libyan leader denounced NATO and the rebels challenging his rule. He vowed never to surrender.

Alliance officials have warned for days they were increasing the intensity of their air campaign to oust Gadhafi after more than 40 years in power.

It couldn’t be confirmed whether his speech was a live phone call or an audio recording, but it appeared to take state TV by surprise. The sound was hastily adjusted to make it louder.

“We will not surrender: We only have one choice — to the end! Death, victory, it does not matter, we are not surrendering!” Gadhafi said. Highlighting his anger, he called the rebels “bastards.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where is he?

- Gadhafi was last seen in a brief appearance on state television in late May.
- He has mostly been in hiding since NATO strikes in April targeted one of his homes.
- Libyan officials said one of his sons, Saif al-Arab, and three of his grandchildren were killed in that strike.

IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A boy holds an assault rifle as people rally yesterday next to Moammar Gadhafi’s Bab al-Aziziya compound, a regular target of NATO airstrikes.

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INCLUDES central accom and breakfasts.

Copenhagen
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INCLUDES central accom overlooking the canals and downtown. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $42 per night.

Munich Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $875 + taxes & fees $490

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Paris Air + 7 Nights — from $989 + taxes & fees $463

INCLUDES central accom. **ADD** Illuminations of Paris tour from $35.

USA

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from **$229**
+ taxes & fees $110

INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $20 per night. **ADD** helicopter tour from $172.

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INCLUDES accom near Times Square. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $30 per night. **ADD** theater tickets to *Chicago, Billy Elliott, Mary Poppins* or *Memphis* from $143.

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Police-reported hate crimes rise: StatsCan

Race and ethnicity the top motivator ◗ Increases in hate crimes against all racial groups in 2009

The number of police-reported hate crimes in Canada increased 42 per cent in 2009, according to a new study released yesterday.

Canadian police services reported 1,473 hate crimes in 2009, up by 437 incidents. That came on the heels of a 35 per cent increase in 2008.

Statistics Canada said the number of police-reported hate crimes motivated by race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation all rose in 2009, especially hate crimes motivated by religion at 55 per cent.

The number of racially motivated hate crimes was up 35 per cent, it said, while those motivated by sexual orientation went up 18 per cent.

54% Statistics Canada said that in 2009, 54 per cent of police-reported hate crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity.

29% Religion was the motivator in 29 per cent of police-reported hate crimes.

13% Sexual orientation was the motivation behind 13 per cent of police-reported hate crimes.

"Violent offences, such as assault, accounted for about four in 10 hate crimes reported by police," the study says. "Violent offences were particularly more common among hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation."

More than half (54 per cent) of police-reported hate crimes involved mischief offences, such as graffiti or vandalism, the study says.

"Rates of hate crime tended to be highest among youth and young adults for both victims and accused," it says.

Four cities accounted for most of the increase in police-reported hate crime, led by Ottawa, where the number of incidents increased by 83, Toronto (79), Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (62) and Montreal (61). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wrongly convicted woman freed

ALLISON JONES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tammy Marquardt with a photo of her son, Kenneth

Shortly after Tammy Marquardt was sent to prison in 1995 for the death of her two-year-old son, she had the word "freedom" tattooed on her arm.

But it wasn't until yesterday that she could truly say she was free.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario quashed Marquardt's second-degree murder conviction this year, calling her a victim of a miscarriage of justice and ordering a new trial. Yesterday, the Crown withdrew the charge because of how much time had passed and the "flawed'' evidence of the now notorious former pathologist Charles Smith.

Ontario Superior Court Judge Michael Brown said it's tragic that it took so long to uncover Smith's mistakes and conveyed to her his "deepest regret.''

Smith, recently stripped of his medical licence for professional misconduct and incompetence, testified in her case that Kenneth was strangled or suffocated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM target of hacking attack

It seems a hacker without a cause was the likely culprit behind a false report on the Conservative party website yesterday morning claiming Stephen Harper had been helicoptered to Toronto General Hospital "after an incident at breakfast."

"He was eating breakfast with his kids when a piece of hash-brown lodged in his throat, blocking air from reaching his lungs," the item reported.

The false report was eventually removed from the website, but not before rookie Tory MP Chris Alexander re-tweeted it.

The incident comes at a time when hacking for fun, mischief, malice and profit has been much in evidence around the world.

A person or group called LulzRaft claimed responsibility and plaudits for the Harper hoax on Twitter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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2140 Sumas Way

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Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
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Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
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45905 Yale Rd.
7544 Vedder Rd.

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20159 88th Ave.
20202 66th Ave.

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Mission
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32555 London Ave.

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1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1801 Lonsdale Ave.

Pitt Meadows
19800 Lougheed Hwy.

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GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canada Post vehicles sit idle outside a sorting depot in Montreal. Scenes such as this may take place across the country if there's a national walkout.

No mail mess — yet

Union puts off national walkout, local strikes go on

Postal workers are considering an escalation of their current round of rotating strikes but their union is still not waging a full-blown national walkout.

Union leaders decided late yesterday that workers in Calgary and Edmonton will be off the job today, in the sixth day of rotating strikes.

About 1,000 postal workers were on strike yesterday in Moncton, N.B., and Victoria, and earlier strikes were held in Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ont., and Montreal.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers said escalation was discussed but CUPW will continue the less disruptive localized strikes for now.

Canada Post said the strikes already have had a severe impact on its business, dropping mail volumes as much as 50 per cent since they began.

"This decline in volume comes at a time when the company is already struggling to address significant business challenges," the corporation said in a statement.

"Canada Post does not understand why the Canadian Union of Postal Workers would willingly damage the business with strike action when the company has put a strong offer on the table."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tearful, but won't resign

Congressman says lewd Twitter pic wasn't illegal and he will submit to inquiry ● House Democrats express disappointment and embarrassment ● Reflects erosion of support for the 46-year-old New York congressman

A prominent Democratic lawmaker's once promising career was in danger yesterday after he acknowledged sending a lewd photo to a woman over Twitter and then lying repeatedly to protect himself.

Congressman Anthony Weiner has refused to resign even as house Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi formally requested an ethics investigation.

The National Republican Congressional Committee seized on the scandal as a 2012 campaign issue, issuing news releases calling on more than a dozen house Democrats to return campaign contributions from Weiner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anthony Weiner

Not sure of ages

- **Weiner acknowledged** that he had engaged in inappropriate contact with six women over the course of three years through social-networking sites.
- He said he had never met them and was not even sure of their ages.

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Nintendo unveils new Wii

Will the Japanese giant's new Wii U revolutionize gaming?
Controller resembles a mobile device and can be used as a shield

Nintendo introduced its new game console, the Wii U, at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., yesterday.

Its distinguishing feature is a unique controller, which resembles a tablet computer. Users can play games on the TV, on the controller, or both.

"It's a new structure for home entertainment," Reggie Fils-Aime, president and COO of the company's North American division, told the crowd.

Although the controller resembles a mobile device — and the Wii U itself is Internet ready — Fils-Aime cautioned that, "it was not designed to be a portable gaming machine, even though it shares some characteristics. The images displayed on the new controller are generated only by Wii U."

"Nintendo needed to differentiate themselves from their competition one more time, and they're very far out of the box with this new controller," Chris Kohler, gaming editor of Wired.com, told Metro.

Fils-Aime displayed footage of New Super Mario Bros. Me and Lego City Stories. Other titles include Batman: Arkham City, a new Assassin's Creed and EA Sports.

The new product is key to Nintendo's future. Although the original Wii has sold 86.7 million units worldwide (compared to 54 million for Xbox and 50.6 million for Playstation 3), sales have lagged recently, with a reported 29 per cent decline in revenue.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Wii vs. Wii U

What's the difference between the old and new systems?

- **The controller.** Wii U's controller is rectangular and has a touch screen, speaker and camera compared to the screen-free baton of the Wii.
- **More mature games.** There's more bloodshed in space, sports and warrior games. Compare that to the family-friendly Wii Fit.

COURTESY OF NINTENDO

▶ Nintendo's new Wii U goes on sale next year.

Market moment

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RIM connects with Scoreloop

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion has acquired German social game developer Scoreloop in a bid to boost development of social and collaborative gaming applications.

RIM says Scoreloop will help its developer community "take gaming to a new level of social integration."

Munich-based Scoreloop has developed a gaming ecosystem aimed at building communities designed to generate revenue from mobile games.

Its products allow programmers to build connections from games to social media through virtual currencies, global leaderboards and product promotions.

RIM, based in Waterloo, Ont., has had a stiff fight from technology giant Apple, whose hugely popular iPad is in direct competition with RIM's less lauded PlayBook tablet.

Apple announced iMessage for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, which mimics the popular BlackBerry Messenger program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The view from a condo in Vancouver beside Stanley Park with a view of English Bay, the park and downtown.

Vancouver housing costs could plummet: Report

A new report suggests sky-high housing prices in Vancouver could fall more than 21 per cent if foreign investment ebbs or interest rates climb.

The report from BMO Economics says overpriced homes in some Canadian cities, along with elevated household debt, suggest the real estate market is vulnerable to a correction — especially in Vancouver.

It says past housing corrections saw Vancouver home values fall an average of 21 per cent. Prices are even higher today, averaging $815,000 in April, making the market even more susceptible.

The report says housing costs in Vancouver now eat up 11.2 times of median family income. The Canadian average is 5.1 times median family income — a historically high level as average Canadian home prices have more than doubled in the past 10 years.

BMO says current prices suggest that even a modest increase in interest rates will slow the market in coming years. Some triggers that could set off a broader collapse include a rapid rise in interest rates, a sharp increase in unemployment or a slowing of foreign investment.

High home prices in Toronto also mean the country's biggest city is likely poised for softer prices in the near term, fuelled by a rising supply of condos that could soon outstrip demand, leaving a glut on the market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Vestigial: (vĕstĭj'ēəl): Relating to a body part that has become small and lost its use because of evolutionary change.

For example, Canada Post.

In case you haven't heard, there's a strike going on at the post office. It's a nice, polite, post-modern rotating strike that, so far, has touched lightly on smaller cities such as Victoria and Hamilton, but the posties could hit the bricks across the board and most of us would only notice a slight reduction in the amount of junk mail cluttering our mailboxes.

Snail mail is one of those vestiges, like the appendix, that is hanging around (literally, in the case of the appendix) but has an increasingly obscure purpose.

Unless you're one of those vestigial anachronisms who likes to pay bills by mail and fondle your paycheque for a few minutes before you sacrifice it to hungry creditors, you probably pay your bills on the Internet, get your pay via direct deposit and send emails to your relatives in Parry Sound, Ont.

"The sad truth is, if Canada Post had an appendectomy tomorrow, no one, except for those 50,000 people with nice jobs, would really suffer."

Even snail-mail Christmas cards are giving way to e-cards, which you can pick up on your laptop, iPad, PlayBook, smartphone, desktop, etc. Of course, you can't mount them on the mantel, but interior decorators everywhere agree that's a good thing.

Snail mail has decreased by 17 per cent since 2006, says Canada Post, and, frankly, it's surprising the drop isn't greater. Must be all those vital fast-food coupons.

So what is the union thinking? Why remind us that Canada Post employees, with no advanced educational requirements or experience, start at $24 per hour with three weeks' holidays, retire with full pension at 55, and can bank sick days (what's a sick day?), for being the workplace equivalent of the appendix?

The sick-day banking thing is particularly interesting. You could argue that sick days are a humane mechanism, but why should you get to keep them when you're not sick? And turn them in for cash? At taxpayer expense?

The sad truth is, if Canada Post had an appendectomy tomorrow, no one, except for those 50,000 people with nice jobs, would really suffer. It might take a couple of weeks to learn how to send money by email, pay Canada Revenue online, and transfer your holiday greetings to Facebook, but there is nothing that posties do that can't be duplicated online or by private companies.

Apparently, postal Armageddon is not arriving fast enough for the union, so as it teeters on the brink of irrelevance, it has decided to go on strike, finish itself off, and leave no forwarding address.

Return to sender. Just sayin'.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

metro life panel

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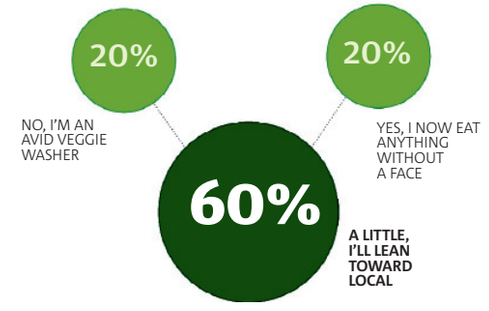
Has the E. coli outbreak in Europe changed how you shop for produce?



Local tweets

- **@cyrusthegreat85:** 4 game suspension?!?!?!?! League must really hate the #canucks! Horton gets up from that hit, wuda been a 2mins penalty tops.
- **@sarlabeans:** Excited and nervous for tomorrow nights game. I really hope the #canucks can #bringithome in 5! My nerves can't handle any more of this! Xo
- **@D1GGY:** @Duffyeddie doesn't matter who it was hahaha #Canucks in 5 i have to stick with it ... ill change it to 6 then 7 later this week haha
- **@_ryanbains:** 22 years ago today #Canucks signed Pavel Bure to a 4 year $2.7 mil contract. Bure was 2nd highest paid player on the team to @trevor_linden
- **@Dustin_4Real:** Seriously, how can Aaron Rome get 4 games. Honestly, the guy nearly had his head taken off not long ago ... #canucks #conspiracy ?!? #2togo
- **@pbagosy:** I don't disagree with the long suspension for Rome, I just don't see it as being what the @NHL regularly hands out for these hits.

Worth mentioning

ROME. Global food prices fell slightly in May, but they will remain "at stubbornly high levels" for months to come, a UN agency said yesterday.

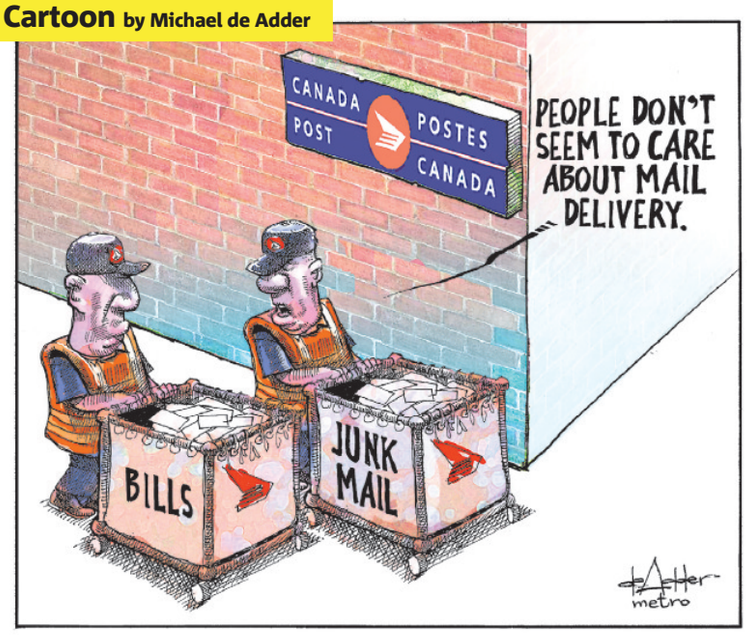
The Food and Agriculture Organization said high and volatile prices can be expected the rest of this year and into 2012, citing a decline in food stockpiles and modest production increases for most of the crops.

Food prices dropped one per cent in May compared to the previous month, but remain 37 per cent above May 2010, according to a price index released by the agency. It said lower cereal and sugar prices led to the decrease in the May index, offsetting increases in meat and dairy prices.

The index hit an all-time high in February, raising fears of a repeat of the food crisis of 2007-08, when high prices led to violence and political tensions in many parts of the world. Prices in March decreased, though experts warn they remain far too high for many poor communities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

No sequel for this sheep named Shrek

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

New Zealanders were mourning the loss of the country's most famous sheep yesterday, a shaggy national icon named Shrek who was renowned for avoiding being shorn for years.

Shrek captured the public's imagination in 2004 after he evaded the annual shearing roundups for the previous seven years by hiding in caves on his farm on the South Island. When finally found, he was clad in an astonishing 27 kilograms of wool.

That's about five times a typical annual shearing from Shrek's breed, the Merino sheep, prized for some of the softest wool. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2 scene

Scene in brief

Space shuttle Endeavour commander Mark Kelly delivered an out-of-this-world message to a U2 concert after Bono dedicated a song to Kelly's wife, Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Kelly appeared on a video board from the International Space Station and said "Tell my wife I love her very much."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patti LaBelle, Steve Harvey to be honoured at the BET Awards, where Chris Brown is to perform. Scan code for story.

Lady Antebellum not a 'one-trick pony'

- **Country trio wants to move on from the crazy success of their single Need You Now**
- **Next topic: Lady A reveals Sept. 13 release date for their new album, Own the Night**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Thrown into the spotlight: Need You Now was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

Now that Need You Now has changed their lives, the members of Lady Antebellum are ready to change the subject.

The country trio will release their follow-up to that Grammy-winning album on Sept. 13.

Own the Night turns the page on a notable chapter in the story of Hillary Scott, Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley's rise from promising country up-and-comers to one of the most successful crossover acts in music history. It's time to move on.

"We don't want anyone to think we're a one-trick pony," Kelley said in a phone interview with The Associated Press from Los Angeles. "That's our goal, to say, 'Hey, guys, we've got more coming.'"

Need You Now was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

Fans downloaded the song about an ill-advised and drunken late-night call to an old flame more than 3.1 million times last year.

It was the rare country song that resonated across the spectrum of listeners, rising to No. 2 on Billboard's pop music chart.

"I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different."
CHARLES KELLEY OF LADY ANTEBELLUM, ON THE GROUP'S HIT SONG NEED YOU NOW

The song netted most of the major country awards, and Lady A won a leading five Grammys, including song of the year.

The album produced three multiweek No. 1s on the country chart and pushed the trio into headliner territory on the road, where they spent much of 2010 after the January release of the album turned everything upside down.

"I think we'd be lying if we didn't say it puts that little added pressure on us for this record," Kelley said.

"I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different. My biggest fear is having the conversation keep being about a song that's two or three years old. I feel as artists and musicians we're ready to move on to the next chapter."

Movin' on

Lady A are eager to spin the conversation forward to the May 2 release of their new single, Just a Kiss, and fans showed they're receptive.

- **The single** debuted at No. 7 on the Hot 100, a record for a country group.
- **The song** is a classic example of the trio's strengths with Kelley and Scott harmonizing over a slow-burning track about simple emotions that most people can connect with.
- **The trio** now has a recognizable sound that will be featured on Own the Night, Kelley said.
- **Much of the writing** was done on tour buses with the trio inviting songwriters to accompany them for a week at a time.
- "There's a lot of songs I think that have a lot of nostalgia to them," Kelley said. "I think when you're out there on the road and you're so busy, you tend to get a little more introspective and you start thinking about what road led you where you are. So there's a lot of songs looking back at childhood or old love or whatever it may be."

SUZANNE TENNER

▶ Opal (Heather Graham) and Judy (Jordana Beatty) star in the upcoming release, Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer.

Graham gets a little goofy

Playing the 'wacky aunt' wasn't difficult for star as she loves spending time with her friends' kids

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

For Heather Graham, taking on the role of oddball Aunt Opal, a guerilla artist and world traveller, in Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer, was something of a no-brainer, since Graham and Opal tend to view the world in a similar fashion.

"I've definitely done that. And I've definitely had the philosophy of how do I live my life as a work of art? Like, how do I get the most joy and pleasure out of every day and just appreciate everything?" Graham says.

Life philosophies aside, Graham was just excited to get into Aunt Opal's eclectic clothes — many of which made their way home with her.

"It's really fun to be around kids and feel like that side of yourself that just wants to have fun."
HEATHER GRAHAM, ON SPENDING TIME WITH HER YOUNG CO-STARS

"The wardrobe designer was so amazing — I loved her," Graham says. "Everything she had, I just felt like I was going crazy, like, 'I want this so bad when the movie's over.'"

One of the bonuses for Graham of taking on that kind of role was immersing herself in the world of her young co-stars. "You're not thinking and worrying about adult things, you're just really in the moment and having fun." Also fun was introducing Judy Moody herself, young Australian actress Jordana Beatty, to some U.S. customs.

"We decorated her trailer, because she's never had Halloween before because they don't have it in Australia," Graham says. "We went in her room and we decorated it with jack-o'-lanterns and all of these things, and we were so excited. We surprised her."

But the Halloween-themed fun didn't stop there, especially considering the bond that developed between Graham and Beatty. "I was with her for her first Halloween," Graham says. "It was after we stopped shooting, but we went trick-or-treating together. And she was a pumpkin. We went to [Los Angeles neighbourhood] Toluca Lake. It was crazy. There's so many people, and every single lawn looks like a set designer built it."

HOLLYWOOD STILL CASHING IN ON FILMS FOR WEE ONES

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

According to Wikipedia, books written specifically for children have existed since the 17th century.

Some of those books and stories have endured —Charles Perrault's Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — some have not — remember the 1658 book Orbis Pictus in Bohemia? — but stories for kids remain among the top sellers at bookstores and online.

Hollywood has been paying attention. As far back as 1910 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz graced the silent screen and this summer, 101 years later, the parade of movies adapted from children's books shows no sign of slowing.

Next week Jim Carrey brings the Richard and Florence Atwater book Mr. Popper's Penguins to life and this weekend Heather Graham stars in an adaptation of Megan McDonald's Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer.

In the world of kid lit the name Dr. Seuss looms larger than most. His books are classics; unfortunately the movies made from his work tend not to be.

Although Theodor Geisel (the good doctor's real name) had great success on the small screen with animated specials like How the Grinch Stole Christmas, he was reluctant to allow his creations to be turned into films. Two uneven adaptations — Ron Howard's How the Grinch Stole Christmas and Mike Myers as The Cat in the Hat — so annoyed the writer's widow Audrey that she vowed to never again allow live-action versions of her husband's books.

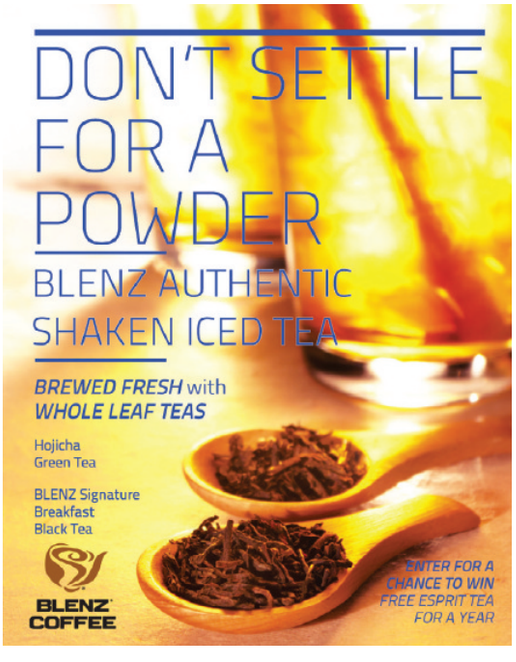
PETER MOUNTAIN/WARNER BROS. PICTURES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Roald Dahl's books seem made to entertain kids at movie theatres. Johnny Depp wowed as Willy Wonka in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Apparently animation adaptations are OK, and in 2008 Horton Hears a Who!, a big CGI film featuring the voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell and Carol Burnett earned good reviews and broke the Dr. Seuss silver screen curse.

One writer whose work seemed made to entertain kids at movie theatres was Roald Dahl. From Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (later remade by Tim Burton as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) to James and the Giant Peach and Fantastic Mr. Fox to The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), his stories have easily adapted to live-action, stop-motion or traditional animation treatments.

Of course not all movies that sound like adaptations of children's books are the real deal. Think twice before you rent The Woodsman. The title may sound reminiscent of Little Red Rising Hood, but it's a dark drama about decidedly non-kid-friendly events and although Whoever Slew Auntie Roo? is based on Hansel and Gretel be careful, it's the stuff of nightmares for little ones.



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Kate Hudson

Baby shower for Kate Hudson

Lots of gender-neutral gifts for boy or girl

Kate Hudson is one step closer to becoming a mom again, celebrating with a baby shower at a private home in Malibu recently with guests including Rachel Zoe, Courteney Cox and Jessica Capshaw, according to People magazine.

"[Kate] looked amazing and kept giggling while mingling with friends, nibbling on food and playing games. She seemed to have the best time," a source says of the soirée.

With the gender of the baby still a mystery, guests lavished Hudson with "gender-neutral baby items," according to the source. METRO

Cheryl Cole not on X-Factor

Producers for the new U.S. edition of X Factor have made it official, announcing that Cheryl Cole is out as a judge for the reality series.

"Nicole Scherzinger will be replacing Cheryl Cole on the judging panel of The X Factor," a statement from Fox, Fremantle Media and Syco TV reads. "Nicole has previously joined Simon Cowell as a guest judge on The X Factor for the U.K. version of the show in 2010. Steve Jones will act as sole host of The X Factor." No official reason was given for Cole's dismissal. METRO

Cameron Diaz

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Reiser: Show was caught in crossfire

While Paul Reiser is smarting over the cancelation of his latest sitcom, The Paul Reiser Show — which was yanked from NBC earlier this year after airing just two episodes — the comedian thinks there's plenty of blame to go around. "One of the things I've learned is it's not really a great idea to develop a show at a network that gets sold in the middle of your term," he tells Popeater, referring to NBC's recent deal with Comcast. "It could not have been a less opportune moment" METRO

Cameron ignores rumours of split

Cameron Diaz is reportedly laughing off reports that she and Alex Rodriguez have split up, according to Us Weekly. The pair have been acting very much like a couple around L.A. recently, hitting up parties for the MTV Movie Awards and the NBA finals looking "very affectionate," sources say.

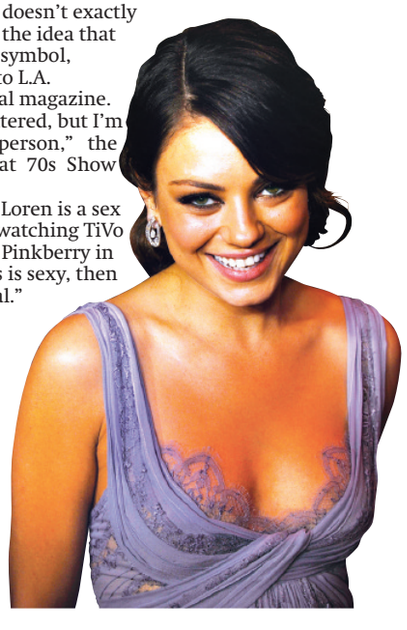
As for dealing with reports about her love life, Diaz shrugs it off: "If I want to read gossip, I read about somebody else's life. I can't worry about what other people say," Diaz tells Extra. METRO

Mila Kunis: I'm no sex symbol

Mila Kunis doesn't exactly agree with the idea that she's a sex symbol, according to L.A. Confidential magazine.

"I'm flattered, but I'm not that person," the former That 70s Show star says.

"Sophia Loren is a sex symbol. If watching TiVo and eating Pinkberry in sweatpants is sexy, then I'm your gal." METRO



Scarlett, Sean Penn still friends

Scarlett Johansson

Though Scarlett Johansson and Sean Penn have put their relationship to rest, they were spotted hanging out together recently backstage at Spike TV's Guys Choice Awards, according to Popeater, though it's apparently no surprise.

"If you remember after Scarlett confirmed her split from Ryan [Reynolds] the two continued to see each other and have dinner together,' a friend of the actress says. METRO

Celebrity tweets

@nicolerichie

"Why is everyone getting junk mail besides me? All my friends are complaining, and I have to lie and say "totally, me too!"

@piersmorgan

"Has there ever been a better name for a sex scandal politician than Weiner?"

@SethMacFarlane

"When society collapses, who do I talk to about being killed last?"

@DamonLindelof

"Emma Frost's THREE mutant powers: Telepathy, Transformation to Solid Diamond and last but not least, Sucking at Acting."

Enjoy the sights, sounds of Saskatoon

Head to Canada's heartland this summer and taste the fruits of their labour The Saskatoon berry is a local favourite in many forms

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Who knew little old unassuming Saskatoon could be so colourful and fun? Especially when there doesn't happen to be any snow on the ground.

Part of that colour, comes every year from the rich red juice of the fabled Saskatoon berry, which is a long time favourite of locals, and quickly becoming a tourist attraction for us out-of-towners.

After arriving at the famous "Berry Barn" just a few miles south of the city, I was hit with the undeniable fact that these tasty little berries are becoming a downright industry. We're talking pies, cakes, preserves, chocolates, ciders, teas and juices, all made from these berries. I even headed out back to harvest a few handfuls from the touristy berry patch orchard. Inside the Berry Barn gift shop, tourists were snatching up Saskatoon Berry plush dolls. Hey, why not exploit what you have! With breathtaking views of the South Saskatchewan River, and a great little country-style dining room, the "Barn" is a great way to wile away a prairie afternoon.

Full of berries, and ready for some high speed adventure, I decided it was time to move on to the new Auto Clearing Motor Speedway, north of the city. Saskatoon has one of the best racing facilities in the country, and I have to say there is nothing like the excitement of a good stock car event in a city that appreciates it.

With a grandstand seating only 3,000, you can get an up close feel for what racing is all about, fast and furious style. That whole baron prairie stereotype of Saskatoon was quickly erased for me, soon after arriving in this vibrant city. Saskatoon berries, and stock cars … what more do you need?

Activities

Other cool things to do in Saskatoon.

- **Walk the Meewasin Valley Trail:** Stroll along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, which winds through the center of the city. In the winter you can even skate or snowshoe.
- **Wanuskewin Heritage Park:** This national historic site features an interactive museum on local native culture. The gateway to hundreds of acres of scenic trails, prairie landscape and archeological sites.

FLICKR: BRUCE GUENTER

▶ A beautiful red sky in Saskatchewan.

FLICKR: ANNRKISZT

▶ The South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon.

3 life

Travel in brief

Bibliophiles who love to travel have a new resource — the website literarytourist.com, launched by an Ottawa-based journalist who says he wants to help used bookstores stay in business. Nigel Beale calls the website a "one-stop shop for literary tourists," with listings for 7,000 to 8,000 stores and destinations across North America. Places in other countries will be added later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Replica of Elvis Presley's favourite coaster, Zippin' Pippin, popular in Green Bay. Scan code for story.

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Visit the world of Avatar

New exhibit at Seattle's Experience Music Project gives movie fans a chance to visit Pandora ◗ 40 artifacts from the movie are on display ◗ Interactive features let visitors take direction from James Cameron

TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Brooks Peck, an associate curator at the Experience Music Project, gets ready for the big crowds for the exhibit on the movie Avatar.

TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A figure of Jake Sully's avatar character from the movie Avatar is shown on display at the Experience Music Project in Seattle.

A music and popular culture museum in Seattle is banking on fans of the Oscar-winning film Avatar to take in a new exhibit on how director James Cameron brought Pandora and its inhabitants to the big screen.

The exhibit at the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame opened Saturday after a Friday event featuring Cameron, some of the movie actors and Richie Baneham, who won the Academy Award for best visual effects.

The goal is to educate and entertain, but not go so deeply into the Avatar world that it resembles an amusement park, museum associate curator Brooks Peck said. It will be the first of its kind to showcase artwork and props from the blockbuster film.

The exhibit at the museum — built by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen — should also appeal to people interested in the science and technology behind movie making and set design. Anyone who heads straight to the interactive displays when they visit a museum may be surprised by how much of a taste they will get of how the movie and the world of Pandora were created.

Visitors can try a virtual camera, like the one Cameron used, to see how the motion capture filming of the actors fit in with the virtual world created on computers. The gadget was created especially for the exhibit, which took more than a year to develop, Peck said. Another interactive allows visitors to take the place of an actor from the film using motion capture technology. Cameron "directs" the guest actor in a scene and afterward they can watch themselves and their avatar on a video screen and post a copy on YouTube.

The main part of the exhibit experiences night and day with the lighting cycling back and forth about every 20 minutes. Tendril-like light tubes hang from the ceiling and change colours as the time switches.

The 40 artifacts on display from the film — which is a combination of live action and animation — include the skeletal robot weapon or "Amplified Mobility Platform" used as a weapon in the film and the motion-capture suit worn for filming by one of the actors. The robot is only four metres tall in real life, but everything in the movie is larger than human scale and the exhibit illustrates this fact with a giant backpack and some giant shoes just waiting for a giggling four-year-old to try on.

The exhibit is populated with the original sketches and models of the Na'vi people and creatures that guided the animators, from models of the heads of the main characters to intricate, feather-and-bead covered headpieces and necklaces,

Some of the art is used as a basis for two other interactive modules: a create-your-own Pandora plant station and a large touch-screen library of hundreds of drawings and short films.

One of the coolest parts of the exhibit is located before the entrance: a large screen showing what appears to be a film of the Na'vi forest, but when visitors step closer, they'll be able to interact with the playful "woodsprites" floating around. Peck said he hopes this screen will keep people entertained if they have to wait to get into the exhibit.

A few steps back from the exhibit, clips from the movie will loop on the EMPs giant screens along with clips from other science fiction flicks.

The exhibit is expected to travel to other museums in the United States and Canada — the EMP is in talks with museums in Canada, Chicago and the East Coast — but not until it finishes its run in Seattle in late 2012.

Cameron brought the idea for the exhibit directly to Allen a few years ago and asked if he wanted to work together to bring the world of Pandora to the public, EMP spokeswoman Anita Woo said. The exhibit was created in partnership with Twentieth Century Fox and Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment and Woo said Cameron was involved throughout development.

The museum won't have timed entries or an extra charge to see the Avatar exhibit. Visitors will have access to all the museum's exhibits including a recently opened retrospective on Nirvana and Seattle's grunge music scene.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go ...

- **Avatar the Exhibition:** Opened June 4 at EMP at Seattle Center, 325 5th Ave. N., Seattle, empmuseum.org/index.asp or 206-770-2700. Open daily, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. General admission, $18.

Musical festival on the high seas

Seven-day cruise is a music geek's Garden of Eden **Concerts every day**

Cayamo concerts are different in several ways. They start on time. They last an hour. And speakers hanging from the ceiling tend to sway. Sometimes the musicians do, too.

"Usually I go where I want on stage," John Prine said. "But here I go where the ship takes me."

Cayamo is an annual music festival at sea featuring performers of Prine's ilk — singer-songwriters with acoustic guitars and devoted fans. There are bands, too, and amplifiers, and all of the attractions that go with any other Caribbean trip.

Mostly the 2,000 passengers come for music. That was the case in February during Cayamo 2011 aboard the Norwegian Pearl. It was a seven-day excursion — six days of concerts and one day listening to musicians tune.

WILL BYINGTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SIXTHMAN

▶ The Cayamo Cruise 2011 aboard the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship. Cayamo is an annual music festival at sea.

Main attractions included Brandi Carlile, the Indigo Girls, Steve Earle, Patty Griffin, Richard Thompson, Loudon Wainwright III and Buddy Miller. But one of the delights was discovering lesser-known acts such as Scott Miller and Chuck Cannon.

A partial lineup for February 2012 includes Prine, Thompson, Wainwright, Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt and Keb' Mo'.

Acts perform in half a dozen cosy venues, the largest seating about 800 people. During the February trip, shows began in the afternoon, and music continued into the wee hours each night.

For the many music geeks on board, it was like being a spectator at a golf tournament. You'd study the schedule and plan where you wanted to be when, who you were willing to miss and who you absolutely had to see.

Prices for the February cruise start at $1,235 per person for double occupancy interior cabins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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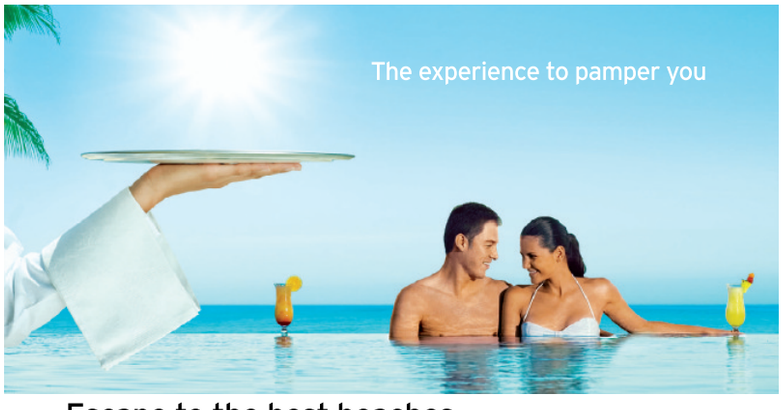
metro life panel



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

LUXURY TRAVEL

Escaping to Northern Thailand

The south might be popular with sun seekers and clubbers, but there's much to see in the north of Thailand Explore jungles, villages and temples in this authentic rural area

AMANDA HYDE
METRO WORLD NEWS

When you think of Thailand, you tend to think of endless white beaches, paradise islands or hedonistic nightclubs, but this country has another side — the jungly, adventurous north.

Once a wild and lawless region, inhabited by drug barons and CIA agents, the province of Chiang Rai has had nearly two decades of sleepy peace, thanks to the efforts of the late Princess Mother, who educated the locals about growing other crops as an alternative to opium.

It's now opening up to tourism, and a slow stream of holidaymakers is replacing the intrepid backpackers who used to be the only people brave enough to visit.

At the very edge of the country, where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge in the swirling brown waters of the Mae Khong River, Chaing Rai is the perfect place to get to know what rural Thai life is like.

Spend a few days exploring the bottle green, undulating landscape — home to Akha and Yao hilltribes, as well as a couple of rescue centres for elephants shipped in from the streets of Bangkok (book excursions with Akha Hill House; 00 66 88 9997 5505; from $39 per person).

Then make for the sleepy village of Chiang Saen: it's a charming introduction to everyday Thai life. See the frogs and chickens on sale in the market, ask a teenage boatman to row you along the border, and admire the gigantic Buddha that looks serenely over the water from its perch on the shore.

It's hard to believe now, but this city was once the capital of the powerful Lanna Kingdom. You can pay your respects in the ancient temple, Wat Chedi Luang, on the outskirts of town.

3 THINGS TO TRY OUT IN NORTHERN THAILAND

EAT
Sabun-nga

- For a quick intro to northern Thai food (spicy pork curries), try the cafeteria in the hostel Sabun-nga in Chiang Rai city, which ticks off every regional speciality in its vast buffet (SangKhongNoi Soi 6; no phone; buffet $7).

SHOP
Markets

- Chiang Rai isn't overrun with shops like touristy Chiang Mai to the west, but its Night Bazaar (between the bus station and Phaholyothin Road) is a compact, characterful place to pick up bedspreads and embroidery made by the hilltribes.

STAY
Golden Triangle Resort

- Right on the Mae Khong, with lush gardens, spacious rooms and great views over the water, the four-star Imperial Golden Triangle Resort in Chiang Saen is a bargain compared with similar hotels in the area (from $55; imperialhotels.com).

Quick tips

- Learn about the region's grizzly past at the Hall of Opium, just outside Chiang Saen. This surprisingly balanced portrayal of the drugs trade includes both opium den recreations and a wall of famous people who became addicted to the drug (00 66 53 784060; $10).
- You can cross the border into Myanmar on a tour of the Golden Triangle — but don't forget to take your passport.
- There are limited international flights to Chiang Rai airport. It's easier to get a flight to Bangkok and pick up a low-cost flight from there: Air Asia (airasia.com) and Thai Air (thaiair.com) both run flights, from around $36 each way.

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Float away on Kerala's backwaters

Chill out on India's southwest coast ◗ Relax on a traditional houseboat ◗ Restore your body and mind with an Ayurvedic massage

NEAL SNOWDON
METRO WORLD NEWS

The sound of the water lapping at the sides of your houseboat sums up a typical holiday experience in Kerala. Gentle and natural, relaxing and rhythmic, it's a perfect reflection of this most soothing state in southwest India.

Everything about Kerala is relaxing. It boasts temples and natural beauty, and it's one of India's most progressive states with high literacy and life expectancy and low child mortality rates. Kerala places great emphasis on being in-tune with your surroundings, so its tourism is eco-friendly too.

Drifting through the backwaters is a great place to start. The houseboats that visitors stay on are based on the region's traditional kettuvallam boats, and are made of local materials including bamboo, coconut and cashew resin. Taking a houseboat journey along Kerala's gorgeous backwaters is an increasingly popular way of exploring the region.

The state is a major centre for Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine that evolved in India 2,600 years ago, based on five universal elements and seven properties of the human body. The practice involves oils and massages that work wonders on mind and body. Ayurvedic centres check how your energies are balanced and adjust your treatments and diet according to how your body needs to be restored to equilibrium.

There's yoga too — the region's yoga tourism has developed in tandem with other wellbeing choices.

But while the focus is on chilling out, the locals also know how to let their hair down. Kerala has 11 spectacular elephant pageants a year, not to mention 50 temple festivals and many other Christian and Hindu celebrations.

Quick tips

STAY

- Try The Tea Bungalow, a classic 100-year-old restored building in Cochin. A double costs $107 per night (teabungalow.in).

BUY

- Craftsmen in many Kerala towns trace their artistry back to the architect of the gods, Vishwakarma. Seek out cast metal and pottery items as well as eco-friendly ornaments made from coconut husks and shells.

KERALA TOURISM

▶ Chilling out on a houseboat in Kerala

3 WAYS TO RELAX IN KERALA

AYURVEDA BY THE BEACH

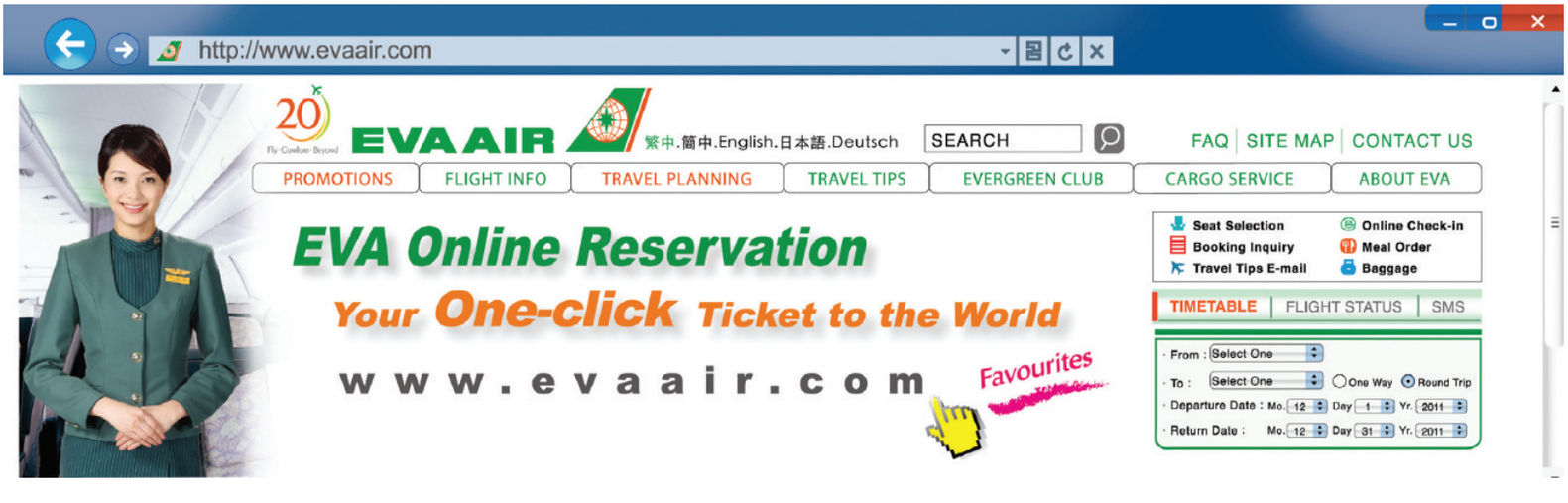
- Try going for double-bliss by booking an Ayurvedic treatment at one of the centres close to any of Kerala's fantastic beaches. **keralatourism.org**

GET CLOSE TO NATURE

- Kerala has 21 sanctuaries for tigers, crocodiles, leopards and snakes. Konni's elephant training centre takes in baby elephants that are wounded or lost.

HOMESTAY

- Kerala is a hospitable place — family homestays are affordable, and a great way to experience the culture, lifestyle and personalities of Kerala. **keralatourism.org**



A taste of Vietnam

For the best of Vietnamese cuisine, steer clear of the tourist trap restaurants and eat on the street like the locals Sublime seafood is found in Phu Quoc in the country's far south

NICK ROSS
METRO WORLD NEWS

When holiday-makers head to Vietnam, travel companies pump them full of deep-fried spring rolls. Let's get this straight: Spring rolls are crunchy, melt-in-the-mouth and taste great. But contrary to popular folklore they are certainly not the country's national cuisine.

Except for pho, which is eaten nationally, Vietnam has no other dish that comes even close to such ubiquity. Overall, the flavours here are vibrant — spring onion, lime juice, lemongrass, coriander, garlic, ginger, fish sauces and chilli. Vietnamese cuisine also mixes textures — so, for example, you may get one dish which is at once crispy and yet soft, Bun cha is a good example, as the meat, noodles and fresh herbs all have different textures.

However, like the landscape and biodiversity in Vietnam, the cuisine in every region, city or town is different.

Take Phu Quoc, for example, the paradise-like island in the far south. Here the ca trich (herring) is so good and fresh that it is eaten raw soaked in lemon juice. In fact, such is the quality of the seafood here that you can forget the beaches, diving and fishing trips and just indulge in the cuisine.

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) is devilish on the waistline, the Vietnamese having an obsession with sweet fatty meats and fish. But the real gems here are Saigonese versions of dishes from the former imperial capital, Hue. The Saigonese have taken this fare, given it a local twist and made it taste even better. To get a real dose of that heady mix of central and southern cuisine head to the restaurant Hoa Tuc.

The street food capital is Hanoi. No matter how grim the weather, everyone crams onto tiny stools in the streets, supping on great noodle soups, deep-fried snacks, rolled wet rice paper and more.

And in the evenings they take to the raucous, huge open-plan drinking and eating joints (quan nhau) and down glass after glass of bia hoi (smoked beer), before delving into a cooked-to-be-shared hotpot.

GO FROM BORED TO BOARD.

NICK ROSS/THE WORD MAGAZINE

▶ Vietnam's superb street food

Quick tips

EAT

- Vietnam's most delicious food is eaten on the street. If you want the real thing without playing dare with your digestive system, in Hanoi hit restaurants like Nha Hang Ngon or Highway 4, famous for serving authentic classics in upmarket settings. In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), check out Cuc Gach Quan, Temple Club or Hoa Tuc.

STAY

- In Hanoi it has to be the Metropole, one of Indochina's oldest, most famous hotels (sofitel.com). In Saigon the Continental Hotel is king. Featured in Graham Greene's classic novel, The Quiet American, it still has the aura of a more glamorous and tempestuous past (continental-hotel.com.vn).

TRAVELLING

- Be adventurous. It's easy to follow the crowd and do Saigon to Hanoi up the coast, or vice-versa. Find a translator and head to the Mekong Delta, Central Highlands or Ha Giang in the north.

3 DISHES TO TRY IN VIETNAM

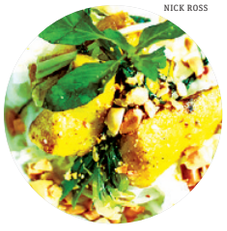
PHO

- Pronounce it "fur" and point at chicken or beef — the latter is often added rare and cooks itself in the complex, tasty broth. Add lime, chili and sweet bread.

BUN CHA

- This typically Hanoian lunch dish is perfect for summer, made of a sweet fish sauce broth, vermicelli, fragrant herbs and small flame-grilled pork burgers.

NICK ROSS



CHA CA LA VONG

- A famous northern dish of river fish fried at your table, with sticky noodles, roasted peanuts, fish sauce, onions and dill to make a light but filling dinner.

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Brown rice for any time

These recipes showcase how to use the grain in snacks, appetizers, mains

These brown rice bars are packed with dried fruits, nuts and seeds and bound together with wholesome brown rice and natural nut butter. They're portable, convenient and, best of all, provide the energy you need to keep up with your busy schedule. These bars can also be prepared as cookies.

ALL PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F). In a large bowl, beat butters and sugar until light and well combined. Beat in egg and vanilla.
2. In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Stir into butter mixture until well combined. Fold in rice, coconut and trail mix.
3. Spread mixture into a parchment-lined 33-by-23-cm (13-by-9-inch) baking dish. Bake in the centre of oven until golden and set, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool before slicing into bars with a serrated knife.
4. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days or wrap and freeze for up to 1 month.

ALL RECIPES: THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RICEINFO.COM

Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pure nut butter (peanut, cashew, almond) with no additional ingredients
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 250 ml (1 cup) brown rice flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) gluten-free baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 500 ml (2 cups) cooked brown rice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) coconut
- 500 ml (2 cups) favourite trail mix

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Fiesta Layered Salad

Preparation:

1. Cook rice according to package directions. Spread evenly on a baking sheet to cool; fluff with a fork.
2. In a bowl, whisk garlic with lime juice, cumin, salt, pepper, honey and hot sauce. Whisking constantly, gradually pour in oil to combine. Stir a spoonful of the dressing with the avocado. Set aside remaining dressing.
3. In a straight-sided glass bowl or trifle dish, layer red pepper, avocado, black beans, rice, corn, tomato, green onion, cheese and cilantro.
4. Drizzle with remaining dressing just before serving.

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) long-grain brown rice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) lime juice
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- 4 ml (3/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each honey and hot pepper sauce
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) oil
- 1 avocado, peeled and cubed
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) chopped red pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) each corn kernels and chopped tomato
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped green onion
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) shredded cheddar cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped cilantro

These Brown Rice Cuban Burgers are a healthy option for your next backyard barbecue They're easy to make

▶ Brown rice burgers are low in fat and high in fibre.

A meatless option for backyard entertaining, these convenient, healthy burgers are flavourful and made with ingredients from all food groups.

Preparation:

1. In saucepan, bring broth and rice to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until all liquid absorbed, about 40 minutes. Let cool
2. In skillet, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil over medium-high heat. Cook red onion until tender. Stir in pepper and mushrooms and cook until tender. Stir in garlic, cumin, coriander, salt and red pepper flakes and cook 1 min.
3. Scrape onion mix into food processor. Add breadcrumbs, cooked rice, beans, feta and egg. Pulse to combine.
4. Using wet hands, form into 125-ml (1/2-cup) patties. In skillet over medium-low heat, cook in batches using 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil at a time until golden brown, 6 mins per side. Serve on buns with pickle slices.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
- 250 ml (1 cup) long-grain brown rice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) safflower oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each finely diced red onion, red pepper, mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each ground cumin and coriander
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each coarse salt and red pepper flakes
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) gluten-free seasoned breadcrumbs
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans (drained and rinsed)
- 60 g (2 oz) crumbled feta
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Dill pickle slices (garnish)

Taking a chance on the new kid

STUDENT VOICE

CAROLYN MANN
TALENTEGG.CA

I just finished my third year of a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

I live in a small city and find it difficult to find meaningful work experience.

I don't know how many times I've heard, "You don't have enough experience," and wanted to scream back, "Well how do you think I am going to get the experience?"

I hope employers will eventually realize how ridiculous this is.

When employers do hire interns and students, though, they should include them in their teams for the long-run.

Nothing is more frustrating than putting in long hours and good ideas, and your employer refuses to see you as a long-term member of the team.

I understand that interns cannot always be long-term employees. However, employers should recognize that every new hire has the potential for long-term employment if they prove they're valuable.

Students and recent grads have a different view of the world and bring completely different ideas to the table. Allow them to be a part of your team, and you'll surely benefit.

My recommendation for a similar situation is to gain the most experience out of the job, no matter the work environment.

Summer internships are short, but you will always be able to leverage the experience you gained for permanent jobs in the future.

When I was searching for a summer positions last summer, I applied to everything! Even though I didn't meet all the requirements posted, I explained my ambition and desire to learn, and explained how I could be a valuable addition to the team.

It can never hurt to apply, and eventually there will be some hiring manager out there who will see value beyond any lack of experience.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Carolyn's experience:

- Even if you're only there for a summer, show your employer that you are a valuable part of the team by asking for more work, helping other employees with their work, and going above and beyond your boss' expectations on a regular basis.
- Keep your options open by applying to opportunities in a variety of fields – you never know who you will meet or what you'll accomplish. Don't limit yourself to your degree title.

Where Carolyn is now

I work at a small, non-profit organization that allows me to learn a variety of skills, from marketing to accounting. When I applied, they looked beyond my relevant work experience and saw the value in my extra-curricular and volunteer activities. They are also flexible, allowing me to work full time during the summer and part-time around my class schedule during school.

I am so happy to have been given the opportunity to show that I can be a valuable employee, even with my lack of experience.

SUBMITTED

▶ Carolyn Mann thinks that a person's willingness to learn should be considered just as carefully as their former work experience.

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Robert Kiyosaki
Investor, Entrepreneur,and Educator has appeared on*:
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RED FLAGS THAT A FIRING IS IN YOUR FUTURE

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

Employers are becoming increasingly adept at covering their bases when dismissing employees. Many have learned from past errors that resulted in generous severance packages and now they are motivated to pay little, if any, severance at all. Here are some signs that you are about to be fired that I have gleaned from my clients in the workplace trenches:

• Your performance is suddenly scrutinized. Although your employer need not build a case for incompetence to dismiss you, many try to do it anyway. Their arguments may ultimately fail but, by making them, you become more inclined to settle for less.

• Having turned on you already, your employer's constructive feedback becomes scarce. Once the decision to fire you has been made, employers have less incentive to correct deficiencies in your work and, in some cases, more of an incentive to reveal them.

ISTOCK

▶ Did you see it coming?

• If your company pays bonuses, expect to be fired right before yours is paid to you. With your departure in sight, your employer has little motivation to reward you.

• Your important work will gradually be moved to other employees to make the transition easier after you are gone. Assignments will become more menial, shorter term and, ironically, easier to complete.

• Even though your important work has been taken from you, you will be criticized for not doing enough and for making errors, however small, that were not previously remarkable.

• You will be left out of important meetings or, if you are asked to attend, you will no longer play an important role at them.

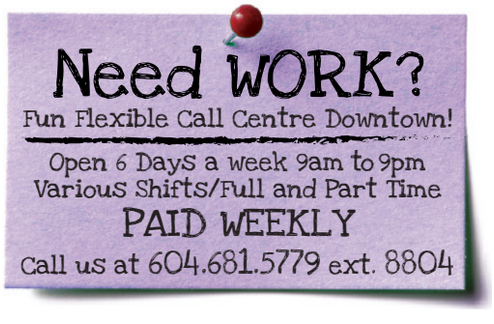
• Expect that memos will arrive with comments where you were previously given instructions or feedback orally. Follow-up memos confirming conversations about your performance will also be delivered.

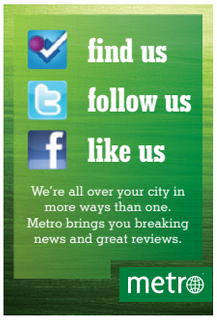
• You find your current job posted online — hopefully while you are looking for another one!

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. HIS FULL ARTICLE CAN BE READ ONLINE AT METRONEWS.CA

Career Finder

To advertise contact Stephen O'Brien at 604-648-3240





Simple choices make big changes

It's Clean Air Day — try something different Here are some ideas to reduce your environmental impact

CHRIS EDWARDS
FOR METRO

Breathe easy — it's what you do when you know the future's bright.

Back in 1998, representatives from five environmental non-governmental organizations weren't feeling so confident. They took their concerns to then-federal Minister of the Environment, Christine Stewart, who in turn began informal consultations with other groups, other provinces, and municipalities.

Eventually, Stewart and her fellow cabinet ministers agreed that a 'clean air day,' encouraging environmental awareness, was what Canadians needed most.

Clean Air Day was officially launched on June 2, 1999 and takes place today during Environment Week.

Clean Air Day's goal is to educate the public and urge action on two key environmental priorities: clean air and climate. How this gets done varies from place to place, but a core part of every initiative is this: any action, no matter how small, even from a single person, can be part of the solution.

"Clean Air Day is a great time to increase awareness about air pollution and commit to activities that reduce our impact on the environment," says Henry Lau, a spokesperson for Environment Canada. "Actions that reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions can be part of every Canadian's daily life — they can have far-reaching impacts on air quality, human health and biodiversity and reduce the effects of climate change."

Little things

That gives you a lot of options, even if you're a busy commuter in the middle of a long summer workweek.

Why not start by unplugging your coffee maker after the brew's poured? Then close the windows and blinds as you leave the house — reducing the need for air-conditioning when you come home. Carpool to work. Store your lunch in a reusable container and bring your own mug for coffee or tea. If you work at an office, don't forget to turn off your computer when your day is done.

These are just a few of the ways you can adjust your lifestyle to help make a difference for everyone. Each is easy to keep up year-round, turning daily decisions into long-term change —another one of Clean Air Day's principles.

If you want to participate in Clean Air Day activities near you, or contribute your own ideas for meeting Clean Air Day's goals, its organizers are listening. "We encourage Canadians to communicate with each other and exchange ideas about Clean Air Day," says Lau. "They can do it through our Canadian Environment Week Facebook event page, or by contacting us on Twitter, via @environmentca."

Clean Air Day's a reminder that the personal is powerful. Today, you can prove it again.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

▶ Making a difference for the environment starts with simple, everyday choices.

Go beyond the bike

Clean Air Day's all about what you can do to make air quality and climate priorities in your life.

In fact, you probably already have some ideas. Maybe you'll celebrate by biking to work — or car pooling, if that's more reasonable. You might turn off the water while you brush your teeth; have a bath instead of a shower; collect organic waste for composting; buy a reusable shopping bag.

The habits you start today can last a lifetime.

But environmentalism isn't just about changing behaviour, it's about finding solutions to problems; being curious about new ways to do things; being creative; even having fun. If biking to work is a Clean Air Day favourite, maybe it's time to try something new?

Fresh ideas

- **Trash-free** Have a trash-free barbecue, inviting guests to bring their own utensils. Use Frisbees as plates —you can work off the dinner with a game or two when you're done.
- **Natural air-con** Plant trees to shade your house. Saves air-conditioning costs in summer, looks great, hides the neighbours.
- **Sell it, don't toss it** Hold a yard or garage sale to sell unwanted items instead of throwing them away. (Have some Frisbees on-hand too: five cents for a burger, or 10 cents if you want to throw your plate behind the house).
- **Swap** Organize a clothing swap. Purge your closet of unwanted clothes and exchange them with friends and family. This is a great way to freshen up your look.

4 sports

CANUCKS GAME DAY

SCOTT RINTOUL
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Roberto Luongo, centre, looks at goaltending coach Roland Melanson as backup goaltender Cory Schneider skates past yesterday.

Searching for an answer

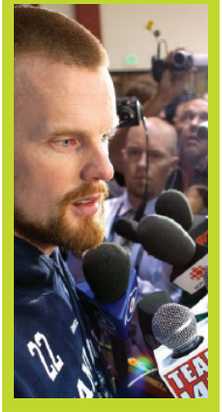
The Canucks have been outscored 10-5, have lost two of their top six defencemen and have held a lead for a grand total of 17:07. Did I mention they lead the Stanley Cup final two games to one?

NHL veterans will tell you it doesn't matter how you lose in the playoffs, but how you respond, and the Canucks can still snag a much-coveted road win in Boston. Vancouver was blown out 7-2 by Chicago in the opening round, and followed that up with a 5-0 pasting at home. Between that shutout and Monday night's debacle, the Canucks hadn't lost a game by more than two goals.

Aaron Rome's four-game suspension sure is harsh based on precedent, but Vancouver appears to be in a better position to replace the hitter than the Bruins are the hittee. Keith Ballard is expected to return to the lineup and there is speculation that Chris Tanev could accompany him. Ballard and Tanev played well together in the San Jose series.

As for the Bruins, Tyler Seguin seems the obvious replacement for Nathan Horton, who will miss the remainder of the playoffs with a severe concussion.

Quoted



"We totally disagree (with the suspension). We support Rome. He's a hard-working guy. He has no intention to hurt anyone out there."

CANUCKS FORWARD DANIEL SEDIN ON AARON ROME'S SUSPENSION.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Special delivery

The Canucks entered this series with a decided advantage on special teams, but the Bruins hold the edge through three games. Vancouver has just one goal on 16 power plays compared to the Bruins' three-man advantage markers on three fewer opportunities. Boston is even outscoring Vancouver during its own power plays with two short-handed tallies against the Canucks.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Child's play

Like a father warning his poorly behaved children, NHL disciplinarian Mike Murphy warned both teams to tone down their extracurricular activities heading into Game 4. Maxim Lapierre taunted Patrice Bergeron and both Mark Recchi and Milan Lucic waved fingers to taunt Alex Burrows, in the wake of his alleged Game 1 bite. Murphy said future finger waving will result in a two-minute penalty and a 10-minute misconduct.

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Starting stoppers

Though he couldn't be faulted on the majority of them, the eight goals Roberto Luongo allowed in Game 3 are two more than Tim Thomas has allowed in six career starts against Vancouver. Thomas has turned aside 103 of the 108 shots he's faced in this series, but Luongo has the numbers that matter — two wins — and has shown he's capable of bouncing back throughout the playoffs.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Conn Smythe curse?

Ryan Kesler entered the Stanley Cup final as the leading candidate for most valuable player in the playoffs, but has managed only a single assist against the Bruins this series. The last time Kesler's offensive production was questioned this post-season, he turned in the most dominant individual performance in Canucks playoff history by putting up 14 points in the Predators series.

Rome, Horton won't return

There can be no justice when two men lose the chance to take part in the Stanley Cup final.

Nathan Horton won't have the opportunity to score another big goal for the Boston Bruins after being hospitalized with a concussion. Aaron Rome, who delivered the hit that put him there, won't play another minute for the Vancouver Canucks this season after receiving a suspension four times longer than any previously handed out in the championship series.

Even the NHL, desperate to take a stand on dangerous hits, doesn't win when it comes down hard on a player at the most important time of year.

"I take it very seriously, very seriously," said league vice-president Mike Murphy, who is handling discipline for the final. "Guys play all their lives to get to this series on both teams, and you might never get back. So I take it very seriously. I do not make light of this.

"I wish I wasn't sitting here. I wish Aaron was playing, and I wish Nathan was playing."

Instead, an emotional series rife with bad blood will play on without them. The league went further than simply handing Rome a record-setting four-game suspension on Tuesday for his dangerous hit on Horton in Game 3 — Murphy also issued a warning to both teams that any player caught taunting an opponent will be given a two-minute unsportsmanlike penalty and 10-minute misconduct.

"We've addressed it with the teams as early as this morning, and I will be speaking with both general managers and coaches before the day is over about the crap that we're seeing and the garbage that's going on and some of the issues," said Murphy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN TLUMACKI/THE BOSTON GLOBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Aaron Rome skates away after checking Nathan Horton.

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GAME 4

Canucks look to move on from loss

In some ways, Roberto Luongo is back where he started.

The Vancouver Canucks goaltender was still feeling confident after being shelled 8-1 by the Boston Bruins in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final — his roughest performance since enduring 7-2 and 5-0 losses to Chicago in the opening round of the playoffs. Luongo managed to shrug off those games and expects to do the same again.

"I waited my whole life to be here," Luongo said yesterday. "I'm not going to put my head down. It's time to get back to work. Obviously, last night was disappointing for all of us. We have a great opportunity, we're in the cup final.

"Even though there are going to be some tough times, you have to be in the moment and focus."

It was a sentiment shared by a number of Canucks players ahead of today's Game 4 at TD Garden. Despite the lopsided loss, they are only one win away from going home with a chance to clinch the first championship in franchise history.

The ability to maintain an even keel has been important to a playoff run that has seen its share of ups and downs.

"Our mentality is going to be the same whether we win or lose a game," said forward Manny Malhotra. "I think we've done a great job throughout the entire playoffs. We've never been too high, we've never been too low on ourselves."

The last time Luongo allowed eight goals in a game was April 1, 2010, against the Los Angeles Kings.

There was plenty of blame to share in the Game 3 shellacking. Alex Edler's broken stick set the table for the opening goal, Ryan Kesler accidentally knocked the puck in is his own net on the second one and the entire team experienced a major letdown after Brad Marchand made it 3-0 with a nice short-handed effort. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rome burned by lack of recognition

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

So Aaron Rome will miss the rest of the Stanley Cup final after he was suspended four games for his interference hit on Nathan Horton early in Game 3.

And while it'll go down in the books as being a suspension for a late hit, it's really a lengthy suspension because Rome is the perfect fall boy for this kind of incident.

Think about it. This is now the longest suspension in Stanley Cup final history. For all the haymakers, elbows, slashes, cross-checks, hits-from-behind, bites and other illegal infractions that have dotted the final over the years, this was deemed most heinous.

As Seth Meyers and Amy Poehler used to say on Saturday Night Live: Really!?

What Rome is actually getting suspended for is the fact he's a depth — and not a top-line — defenceman. It would be difficult for anyone to convince me Kevin Bieksa or Zdeno Chara would have received four games for this hit. Heck, it would have been surprising if either got even one in the same scenario.

The NHL is rightly trying to curb head injuries and while that is a noble cause, lengthy suspensions shouldn't be handed out for a borderline hit that's clean if delivered 0.4 seconds earlier — and the lateness of it is up for debate.

As Mike Murphy, the disciplinarian for the series, told the media, this play had nothing to do with Rule 49 against blindside hits because it was North-South; this was four games for an interference play that had serious repercussions.

The fact that Horton sustained a severe concussion didn't help Rome, but the same rationale didn't apply to Zdeno Chara when he hit Montreal's Max Pacioretty into a stanchion earlier this season, so I don't see the relevance. Chara never intended to injure and neither did Rome.

It may be curious to some, but injuries do happen when you strap sharpened blades onto the feet of grown men who skate around hitting each other at 100 mph. while carrying pieces of taped lumber.

Players should be suspended harshly for egregious acts of violence, like taking one of those pieces of lumber and cracking a guy over the skull. Players should be suspended for hits from behind and fist-flying charges — plays that are not designed to get the puck or force the opponent to pay a physical toll, but instead only result in injury or the high risk of one.

But Rome's borderline interference? I can agree with the five minutes and I can even agree with tossing him out of the game if that's the referee's mandate. Fine.

But I cannot agree with suspending Rome just for being Rome and not being, say, Chris Pronger.

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ If Aaron Rome were a household name, he may have gotten the chance to play again in the final, says Rory Boylen.

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DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dirk Nowitzki tries to shoot past Miami's Joel Anthony.

Mavs even series

Sick Nowitzki manages to lift Dallas to win

Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks have pulled off another stunning comeback, tying the NBA final at two games each.

And this time, Nowitzki did it while battling the flu.

Nowitzki shook off three poor quarters to score 10 of his 21 points in the final period as the Mavericks outscored the Miami Heat 21-9 over the final 10:12 for an 86-83 victory in a memorable Game 4 last night.

MAVERICKS	HEAT
86	83

The Mavs avoided going down 3-1, a deficit no team has ever overcome in the finals, and guaranteed the series will return to Miami for a Game 6 on Sunday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points, but fumbled an inbounds pass with 6.7 seconds left. He knocked the ball back to Mike Miller for a potential tying three-pointer, but it wasn't even close to hitting the rim.

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All-wheel-drive

Regardless of transmission, all X1s come with BMW's patented xDrive permanent all-wheel-drive setup.

The system splits the torque equally between the front and rear wheels under normal driving conditions, but when necessary can shift 100 per cent of the torque to whichever axle is driving the tires with grip.

Trim level options

To keep the starting price in low-$40,000 territory, base X1s will be on the stark side, devoid of leather seats, fancy interior/exterior trim and a number of mechanical/safety features.

On the extra-cost sheet is a panoramic glass roof, bigger wheels, heated leather seats, up-level audio/navigation system and a sport steering wheel with paddle shifters for automatic-transmission models. Also offered is an aero body kit that's part of the M sports package.

Engine

Where the X1 makes a really radical departure from the X3 is under the hood.

The sole powerplant is an all-new 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder that puts out 241 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That's one horsepower more than the X3's base non-turbo 3.0-litre inline six, but crushes that engine's torque rating of 221 pound-feet. The X1 is also 180 kilograms lighter than the X3, which is good news for acceleration and fuel economy.

▶ The X1 shares its platform and all-wheel-drive architecture with the Mini Countryman, but the X1 is bigger and, of course, more expensive.

The keys to this Bimmer won't kill your wallet

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

If you've been loitering outside the local BMW dealership, palms and cheeks pressed to glass thinking that was as close as you were ever going to get to owning a shiny new Bimmer, it's time to come inside.

Yes, the X1 has just arrived as a highly efficient, cargo-friendly and perhaps most importantly, wallet-friendly family transporter that also packs standard all-wheel-drive, which of course is perfect for Canadian winters.

The popularity of the X1 is so great around the world right now that there are shortages that will delay the model's arrival in the U.S. market until late this year.

Somehow, Canadians lucked out.

While a close inspection and a test drive reveals a lot about the vehicle, the reason for its popularity actually requires nothing more than to understand that the X1 is now the least-expensive BMW wagon in the line at $40,500, slotted below the $43,900 X3.

It doesn't really look less expensive, though. In fact, the X1 looks a lot like the X3. A side-by-side inspection is really needed to reveal the X1's more car-like profile in addition to a slightly more elongated nose.

For buyers on a budget who are dead set on a BMW wagon, their wait is over. Now come inside.

5 drive

By comparison

Acura RDX
Base price: $42,400
Similar to X1 in size and output, but trails in fuel economy.

Audi Q5
Base price: $43,000
A4-based wagon offers standard turbo I4 plus optional 270-hp V6.

Infiniti EX35
Base price: $44,200
G37-based wagon features 297-hp V6. Low profile reduces cargo room.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

WAITING IS THE SECOND HARDEST PART

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Like anybody, I've experienced my share of miss-diagnosed car repairs and their subsequent misery.

But they are not at the top of my list of repair shop turn-offs, because those are generally honest mistakes, made by people working on the sharp end of trying to right malfunctioning technology.

Reminds me of the sticker on my father's toolbox that read: "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."

No, topping my list of repair shop turn-offs is the waiting room.

Some shops and practically all new-car dealerships don't like you bugging the mechanics while they work — and who can blame them?

So you must sit in this weird "living room" type area somewhere in the shop.

But it's like a living room in an alternative universe, where you can't leave until someone in charge lets you leave, and you can't change the stations on the TV, even if it's ShamWow, Oprah, or General Hospital.

ISTOCK

▶ It's a good bet the reason this lady looks mad is because she's going to have to spend serious money at the repair shop.

If it's General Hospital, your aggravation is even exasperated, because, as a very irregular viewer you don't know any back-story, like why Dr. Lainey Winters is so currently peeved at Dr. Matt Hunter.

Actually I lied.

The one-channel waiting room is really just the runner-up on my list of repair shop turn-offs.

The one right at the top is irrational pricing for switching tires around.

This spring a dealership charged me $49 to take my snow tires off and put my summer tires on (the latter already on their own, dedicated rims).

But this same dealership charges only $19.95 for a tire rotation — essentially the same amount of work, and work that doesn't even need to be done by a licensed technician.

When I questioned the service advisor about this weirdness, she sympathized, but said her hands were tied. And this is not an uncommon pricing strategy among tire and repair shops.

The main reason I took the car to this dealership was to find out why the "Check Engine" light was on. I threw the summer tires in the car at the last minute, knowing they'd charge me a bit more than other places, but it would save me a trip.

The "Check Engine" part of the work order they did brilliantly. Got the car in quick. Explained everything they did. Charged not a cent over what they quoted.

But the prevailing feeling I had as I drove away was that they "got" me on the tire thing.

And that Dr. Matt Hunter is probably not a stand-up guy.

Bridging the gap between gasoline and ethanol

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Vehicles and their fuel have always been a chicken-and-egg proposal. Stations don't carry fuels that cars don't use, and drivers don't buy cars that need fuel they can't find.

One way to bridge the gap is with flexible-fuel vehicles, capable of running on gasoline, ethanol blends, or a combination of the two.

Several automakers offer flex-fuel engines that accept E85 — a blend of 85 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent gasoline. They work the same way as regular gasoline engines, but have special features to deal with E85's unique properties. Flex-fuel vehicles are usually identified by a badge and a yellow fuel filler cap.

"E85 is a little more corrosive than gasoline, so all the materials that fuel touches has to be designed for that corrosion," says Phil Petsinis, manager of government relations for General Motors of Canada.

"The other key factor is that ethanol has about a third less energy per litre than gasoline, so you have to flow more fuel to create the same amount of energy."

To handle corrosion, flex-fuel vehicles have fuel tanks, fuel lines, injectors and other components that can stand up to the fuel. These are usually made of steel with higher nickel content, Petsinis says.

Since ethanol burns slightly hotter, the valve seats in the engine are harder. A flex-fuel engine also uses higher-capacity fuel injectors and fuel pump to compensate for ethanol's lower energy density. These have to adjust the amount of fuel they pump depending on what's in the tank.

"Back in the 1990s and 2000s, we used an inline fuel sensor," Petsinis says.

"It put a micro-current through the fuel and could tell the resistance difference between gas and ethanol.

"These were expensive components. Today ... we've been able to eliminate that component. By understanding the exhaust emissions, we can interpret what that engine is 'seeing' by using other sensors that exist in the vehicle."

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Odyssey minivan still a comfortable ride

Check last-generation Odyssey for possible transmission and steering issues

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2005 Honda Odyssey Touring

Competing with the Nissan Quests, Hyundai Entourages and, of course, the sales-leading Chrysler "Magic Wagons" of its era, Honda's last Odyssey was a five-door, seven-seat machine with V6 power, front-wheel drive and over 4,170 litres of maximum cargo space.

Available in numerous trim levels to suit a variety of budgets, more basic units were badged DX or LX, while higher-end EX, EX-L or Touring models were available.

Look for feature content like navigation, a sunroof, heated leather, fog lamps, Bluetooth, power sliding doors, satellite radio, automatic climate control and plenty more.

Power came from a proven 3.5-litre V6 engine with between 240 and 255 horsepower, depending on the year. A five-speed automatic was standard on all models.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2005 to 2010 Honda Odyssey.
- **Vehicle type:** Minivan.
- **Price:** $9,000 to $36,000.

What Owners Like

Most Odyssey owners report satisfaction with overall comfort, ride, handling, power output and even fuel mileage. Styling, spaciousness and the remote-activated sliding doors were also favourites.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints of the Odyssey include higher-than-expected wind and road noise at speed, some low-budget interior trim and small arm rests for front-seat passengers. Some owners report a low front end, which could get crunched on curbs and steep driveways.

Common Issues

Start a test-drive with a full check of the power sliding doors (if equipped) and tailgate for proper operation. Power sliding doors should open fully and smoothly, and the tailgate should remain open without any help. If that's not the case, the gas struts could be in need of replacement.

Note that power sliding doors in virtually all minivans will eventually fail and require expensive repair. Skip them if possible.

Kill the radio and drive the Odyssey gently up to highway speeds, noting any hesitation or "shuddering" from the transmission in the process.

Many owners have noticed some form of vibration or "stuttering" from the transmission, and some have had torque converters or transmission mounts replaced as a fix.

If the transmission in the Odyssey you're considering makes any unwelcomed noises or vibrations, be sure to have it looked at by a Honda-trained mechanic.

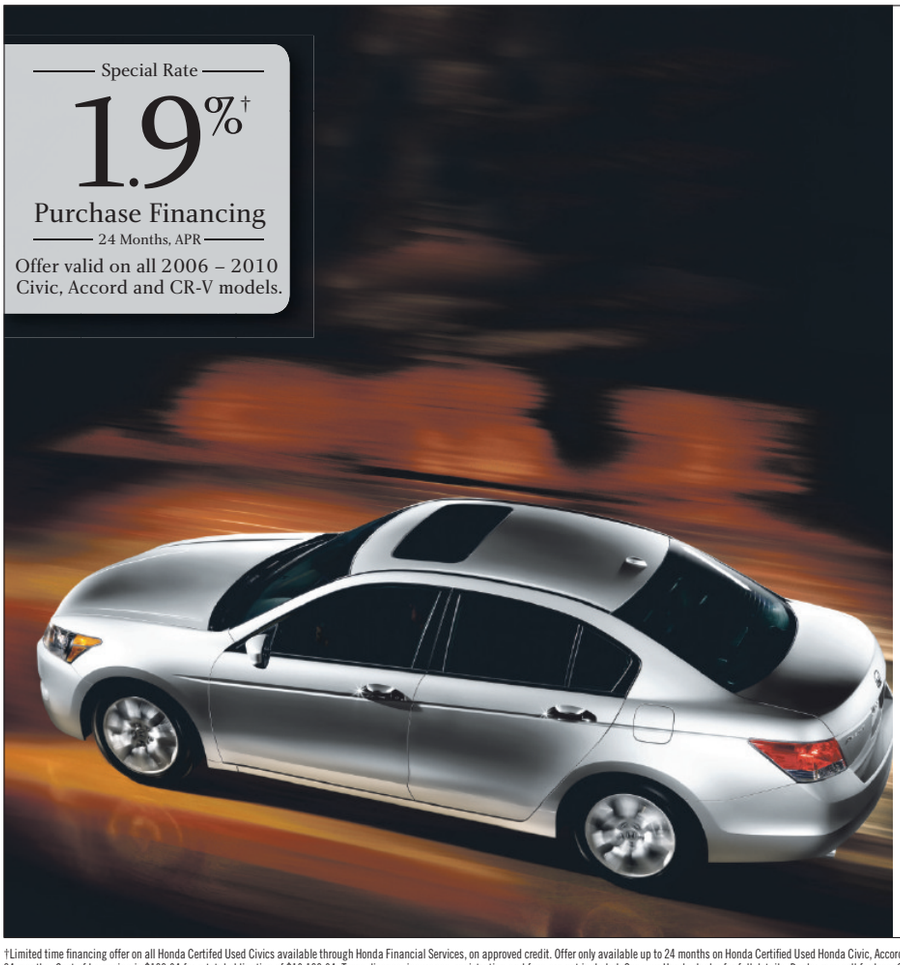
Ensure the Odyssey's steering operates smoothly, easily and without any unwelcomed vibration or "pulling." Numerous owners have reported steering-related issues that could be caused by a failing or faulty power-steering pump.

The Verdict

Common last-generation Odyssey issues are well-documented and should be easy to detect and repair for any Honda mechanic.

Most shoppers agree that Odyssey's comfort levels, high-resale values and relative fuel efficiency should outweigh the potential issues.

Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.



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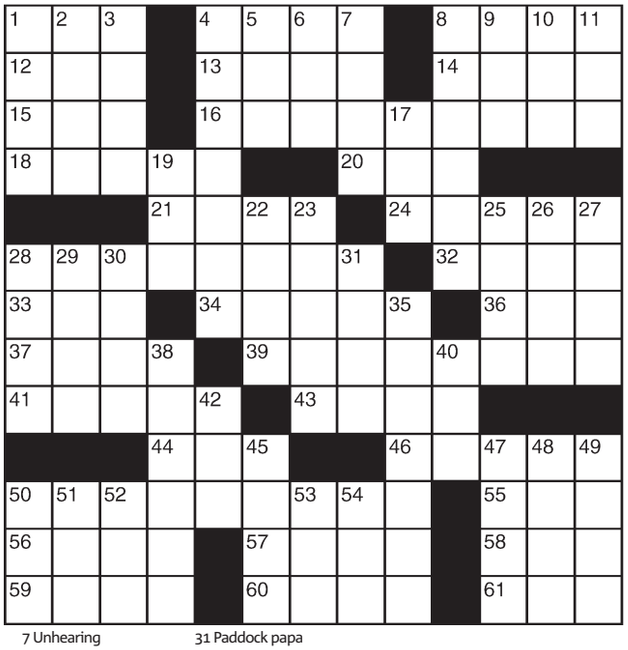
Crossword



Across

1 Wood-shaping tool
4 Peruse
8 This and that
12 "Ostentatious? —?"
13 Canal city
14 Finished
15 Hostel
16 "No Place That Far" singer
18 Summarize
20 Calendar abbr.
21 Sci-fi knight
24 Grit one's teeth
28 Arabian nomads
32 Vocal comeback
33 Lawyers' org.
34 Dutch bloom
36 Cage component
37 Bigfoot's cousin
39 1984 Winter Olympics site
41 Word on the street?
43 Lived
44 Bankroll
46 Expiate
50 Minuet-like dances
55 Book spine abbr.
56 Gel in a Petri dish
57 Nevada city
58 Doctrine
59 Frog's hangout
60 List-ending abbr.
61 — Moines

Down

1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
2 Finished
3 Galvanizing material
4 Aretha classic
5 Historic time
6 Melody
7 Unhearing
8 Of cattle
9 Eggs
10 X rating?
11 Day divs.
17 Work unit
19 1977 Steely Dan album
22 — ex machina
23 Relative by marriage
25 Farm fraction
26 Con's weapon
27 Vagrant
28 Puts into words
29 First victim
30 — -tat-tat
31 Paddock papa
35 Sunshade
38 To the center
40 Lustrous black
42 Talk on and on
45 Challenge
47 "Metamorphoses" poet
48 Schnozz
49 "Desire Under the —"
50 Potential syrup
51 Past
52 Scooted
53 Trawler need
54 "CSI" evidence

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	V	I	D		H	E	A	L		P	T	A		
B	I	T	E		E	L	B	E		L	O	B		
S	I	S	T	E	R	A	C	T		A	R	E		
			A	T	O	N		T	A	I	N	T		
A	T	T	I	C			B	U	R	N				
F	O	O	L		M	E	R	C	I	F	U	L		
R	O	B		P	U	R	E	E		A	K	A		
O	N	E	A	R	M	E	D		I	C	E	D		
		E	W	E	S			A	N	T	S	Y		
B	O	X	E	S		S	E	W	S					
A	G	A		I	N	C	O	N	T	A	C	T		
A	R	C		D	E	A	N		E	C	H	O		
L	E	T		E	B	B	S		P	E	A	R		

Sudoku

3	4						1	5
			9		4			
6		7				3		8
		9	5		1	4		
	3						9	
		4	7		3	8		
4		6				7		9
			2		8			
1	2						8	3

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	3	7	8	1	5	4	2	6
5	1	4	6	2	9	7	3	8
8	2	6	3	7	4	1	5	9
3	6	9	7	4	2	5	8	1
2	7	8	1	5	6	3	9	4
1	4	5	9	3	8	2	6	7
6	5	1	4	9	3	8	7	2
7	9	2	5	8	1	6	4	3
4	8	3	2	6	7	9	1	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

My Bebeboo, There is no feeling more comforting and consoling than knowing you are right next to the one you love. Happy 2nd year, my love. Thanks for crashing into my world. Olive juice! **JUNE OCHO PURPIE**

Roberto S.G, My beautiful baby i miss you so much i hope we'll be together soon and nobody will separate us again i love you and everything i do is for us for our future my love is all yours XOXOxoxoXOXO **INRY S.S.**

Scott, The first time I saw you, I thought you were the most beautiful person I had ever seen. Yrs later, I still look at you the same way. You are my Lover and Best friend, fate brought us together and our special love will KEEP us together. I LOVE You with all my heart, you are truly my soul mate xoxoxoxoxo! **KELLY**

Today 19°/12° Partly cloudy
Thursday 18°/12° Showers
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If you want a relationship to get back to how it used to be, you must discuss the future — together.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You know that you have what it takes to reach the top but others may still need convincing.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Best way to win others over is to act as if their approval means nothing.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A family member will bring some unexpected news today. You will realize you should have seen it coming.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If there is someone you have been neglecting, now you must get things back to how they used to be.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Under no circumstances should you try to blame others for your failures.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You need to convince people you live, work and do business with that you know what you are doing.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The doubts and worries of the past few weeks will fade into nothing over the next 24 hours.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You see clearer and further than most other people, so trust what your inner voice tells you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will have to make a difficult choice concerning your work today.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 From today, you will have a clearer picture of what must be done to make life more enjoyable.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. No matter how reticent a Pisces you may be, you must speak up if you need help. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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HERIBERT PROEPPER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2011 Accent L Sport 3 Dr 5-speed/Elantra Touring L 5-speed/2011 Tucson L 5-speed/2011 Santa Fe 2.4L GL 6-speed/2011 Veracruz GL FWD with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/0% for 84/84/72/84/84 months. Bi-weekly payment is $83/$91/$140/$142/$189. No down payment is required. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,760/$1,760/$1,760/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2011 Accent L 3 Dr 5-speed for $15,094 at 0% per annum equals $179.69 per month for 84 months for a total obligation of $15,094. Cash price is $15,094. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. ‡Purchase or lease a 2011 Accent/2011 Elantra Touring/2011 Sonata/2011 Tucson/2011 Santa Fe/2011 Veracruz model during June 2011 and you will receive a preferred price Petro-Canada Gas Card valid for $0.30 per litre savings on each litre of gas up to a total of 1,000/1,000/1,200/1,200/1,200 Litres. Based on Energuide combined fuel consumption rating for the 2011 Accent L 3 Dr 5-speed (6.7L/100km)/2011 Elantra Touring L 5-speed (7.1L/100km)/2011 Sonata GL 6-speed (7.8L/100km)/2011 Tucson L 5-speed (8.9L/100km)/2011 Santa Fe 2.4L GL 6-speed (9.0L/100km)/2011 Veracruz GL FWD (10.8L/100km) at 15,200km/year (yearly average driving distance (Transport Canada's Provincial Light Vehicle Fleet Statistics, 2008)). This card is valid only at participating Petro-Canada retail locations and other approved North Atlantic Petroleum locations in Newfoundland. This card has no expiry date. Petro-Canada is a trademark of SUNCOR ENERGY INC. used under license. Petro-Canada is not a sponsor or co-sponsor of this promotion. Eligibility for the card is subject to conditions and exclusions. Offer not available on 2011 Elantra, 2011 Genesis Coupe, 2011 Genesis Sedan, and 2011 Equus models. ▼Fuel consumption for 2011 Accent 3Dr HYVY 5.7L/100KM, City 7.3L/100KM/2011 Elantra Touring L Auto HYVY 6.5L/100KM, City 8.7L/2011 Santa Fe 2.4L 6-Speed Automatic FWD (City 10.4L/100KM). HWY 7.2L/100KM/2011 Tucson L HYVY 6.5L/100KM, City 9.1L/100KM/2011 Veracruz GL FWD HYVY 8.5L/100KM, City 12.7L/100KM. are based on EnerGuide fuel consumption ratings. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΩPurchase or lease any 2011 Accent 3 Door L Sport and receive a price adjustment of $1,200. Certain conditions apply. ††Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ∞Based on the December 2010 AIAM/C report. ΠBased on the April 2011 AIAM/C report. ψBased on projected sales figures incorporated into Table 28 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2010 Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Economy Trends report. This comparison is limited to the top 14 highest-volume manufacturers in the U.S. based on the 2010 model-year fleet. Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any use of such marks by Hyundai is under license. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ◊Accent 7 year/120,000 km warranty consists of 5 year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage and an additional 2 year/20,000 km coverage under the Hyundai Protection Plan. Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. Coverage under the Hyundai Protection Plan is subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your local dealer for all details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.